

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 7, 2017

Agenda Item: Fishing Access Site Acquisition on Prickly Pear Creek near Clancy (R3)

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Endorsement

Background:

This project is the potential acquisition of a nearly 50-acre lot located 1.5 mile north of Clancy, and 8.5 miles south of Helena, on Prickly Pear Creek. It is a long linear property with approximately 80% of it being riparian habitat and 0.8 miles of creek frontage flowing through the lot. It also has two small man-made ponds (old gravel pits) that don't currently support a fishery but at least one of them has the potential to be developed into a viable fishery at some time in the future. The current property is part of a much larger parcel that is already subdivided for home development. The estimated value of the property is likely \$250,00 - \$300,000, but the exact value will be unknown until an appraisal is completed. Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust (MFWCT) has expressed an interest in acquiring the property and turning it over to FWP for management as an FAS. FWP would take on the responsibility for development and management of the property. The old frontage county road provides access to the property and will subsequently also provide access to future homes in the subdivision. The stream is too small and shallow for floating, so fishing would primarily involve wade angling. Development of the FAS would consist of a small parking lot, signage and potentially a vault latrine.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

Currently there has been no public involvement. If endorsed by the Commission FWP will begin its due diligence process including development of an EA which includes public notification and a 30-day comment response period.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Potential alternatives will be discussed and analyzed in the EA.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

FWP recommends the Commission to endorse the Department in proceeding with its due diligence process to evaluate the possibility of acquiring this 50-acre parcel for development of an FAS. This is a potential opportunity for the Department to acquire public access for anglers on a parcel of land that is otherwise subdivided for home development.

Proposed Motion:

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve FWP's request to proceed with its due diligence process in evaluating the potential acquisition of this 50-acre parcel for development of a Fishing Access Site.